

# What It's Doing to Us

## The Black Panther Party

By Nicholas Von Hoffman  
Times-Post Service

### Washington

We Americans are mixed up in so many killings, it's not easy to separate out the routine hits from the important ones.

Anybody with half a brain, however, can see that the offing of Fred Hampton, chairman of the Illinois Black Panther party, by the forces of law and order was the most significant rub-out of 1969, a year that is making a late calendar effort to equal the carnage of 1968.

Until the guncels gave it to Hampton in his bed, there had been two liberation movements in the black American world. There had been the one we liberal white people called "responsible" and "moderate," and the other which we spoke of as "brilliant," "radical" and "irresponsible."

That's over.

Cher, Ruth David Abernethy wouldn't have been caught within miles of a Black Panther. The other day he was in Fred Hampton's funeral and spoke words of consolation over the man's loss.

Black congressmen of the class who would flinch when Ray Brown's name came up are doing nothing that the great Panther had to be called off.

### PATTERN

This is going to confuse white people who've been told that the Panther is a predatory carnivore in a land of herbivorous ungulates. To us whites, Panthers are gangsters, Communists, murderers and racists; we believe Panthers are very dangerous people who must be disarmed immediately at all costs.

But the situation created

cy for that and if they don't get justice or protection from these white courts in a very iffy proposition.

The white-controlled mechanisms of protection have been notably ineffective in keeping in line the black leaders who are the only ones who can protect the black people.

Dr. Martin Luther King (murdered), Malcolm X (murdered), Robert Kennedy (assassinated), Robert Kennedy (assassinated), Bobby Seale (jailed).

These are the big, famous names or the members of relatively large and well-known organizations.

There are many other black leaders who are not as famous but who are just as important. They are the ones who are doing the real work of the Black Panther Party. They are the ones who are being killed and jailed.

The Black Panther Party is a revolutionary organization. It is a party of the oppressed. It is a party that is fighting for the liberation of the black people. It is a party that is fighting for the liberation of the black people.

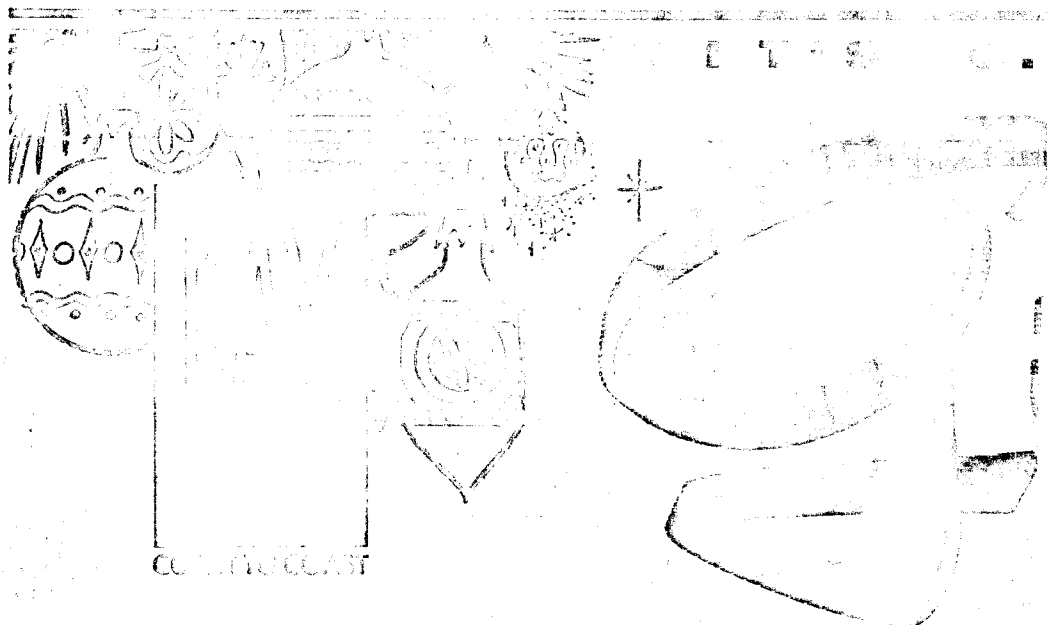
### Miami

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ethnocentrism and try to imagine how a black person might look at what's happening.

We look at each of these police attacks as a unique case, just as we look at Song My as an "isolated incident." It doesn't occur to us that a black man might see a pattern in what's going on.

He will remember the Marcus Garvey liberation movement of the 1920s and the Black Muslim movement of the 1950s, both important and promising efforts at the political organization of the urban black poor by blacks themselves without hidden white financial support and control. Both movements were smashed by the white government.

### GUNS

We whites buy the Los Angeles police department's explanation of the attack the other day on the grounds that the Panthers in the apartment had guns and fought back.

A black person might remember a bloody attack launched by the LAPD in 1965 against the Honorable Elijah Muhammad's temple there. The assault, also near dawn, included firing nobody knows how many rounds of machine-gun ammunition in the place. When it was over, no guns were found.

You don't have to be a fanatic or a Communist or an irresponsible militant to conclude that if the police are going to attack you with machine guns when you're unarmed, you'd do as well to try to defend yourself.

In fact, a non-white person might decide, after comparing the situation with Los Angeles, that the guns did save the people's lives.

Some people will read this and say the writer is encouraging people to pick up guns and shoot policemen. He is not. He is an absolutely against assassinating policemen as he is against murdering citizens. He is against the use of violence as a means of change. What he does think there is a way can come to a point that men would do nothing.

We whites do white people, when we're in a serious jam, we get ourselves a lawyer, we go to court and we sue. Black people don't have mon-

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